WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating focal ischemic stroke caused by obstruction of a main cerebral artery in a mammal comprising administering an amount of anti-CD18 antibody to the mammal which is effective for increasing cerebral blood flow or reducing infarct size, in the absence of removal of the arterial obstruction.

2. The method of claim 1 which increases cerebral blood flow and reduces infarct size in the mammal.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is an antibody fragment.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody fragment is a $F(ab')_2$.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is humanized.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is administered to the mammal by bolus dosage.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is administered intravenously.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is administered via continuous infusion.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is administered to the mammal at a time between about 15 minutes to about 20 hours from the onset of focal ischemic stroke.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is administered to the mammal at a time between about 45 mins to about 5 hours from the onset of focal ischemic stroke.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody is humanized H52 antibody.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the H52 antibody is a $F(ab')_2$.

13. The method of claim 3 wherein the anti-CD18 antibody fragment is fused to a salvage receptor binding epitope.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

15. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a container;

a label on said container; and

a composition comprising an active agent contained within said container; wherein the composition is effective for increasing cerebral blood flow or reducing infarct size in focal ischemic stroke caused by obstruction of a main cerebral artery, the label on said container indicates that the composition can be used for treating stroke and the active agent in said composition is an ~~antagonist~~ anti-CD18 antibody.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 15 further comprising instructions for administering the anti-CD18 antibody to a mammal to increase cerebral blood flow or reduce infarct size in focal ischemic stroke.

17. A kit, comprising:

a first container, a label on said container, and a composition comprising an active agent contained within said container; wherein the composition is effective for increasing cerebral blood flow or reducing infarct size in focal ischemic stroke caused by obstruction of a main cerebral artery, the label on said container indicates that the composition can be used for treating stroke, and the active agent in said composition is an ~~antagonist~~ anti-CD18 antibody;

a second container comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable buffer; and

instructions for using the anti-CD18 antibody to increase cerebral blood flow or reduce infarct size in focal ischemic stroke.